

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-06 AID-01 /034 W
-----077247 051746Z /53

R 051615Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USNATO

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DEPT - EUR/WE FOR AMBASSADOR GARDNER

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP
SUBJ: CODEL BYRD

REF: STATE 140500

1. EARLY JULY VISIT TO ROME BY SENATOR BYRD WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. IN NATO CONTECT, VISIT WOULD ENABLE LEADING MEMBER OF SENATR TO REASSURE ITALIANS OF US COMMITMENT TO ALLIANCE AND TO REAFFIRM IMPORTANCE OF ITALY'S FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATO ACTIVITIES. IN RECENT WEEKS, ITALIANS HAVE SHOWN THEIR DETERMINATION, DESPITE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES, TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN ALLIANCE--FOR INSTANCE, IN AWACS. WE BELIEVE THAT SENATOR COULD EXPRESS US APPREICATION FOR ITALIANS' ROLE AND OUR HOPE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MEET NATO OBLIGATIONS FULLY.

2. SENATOR BYRD'S VISIT WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN
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CONTEXT OF BILATERAL US-ITALIAN RELATIONS. OVER PAST YEAR A NUMBER OF LEADING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED ITALY AND MET WITH ITALIAN LEADERS, REASSURING THEM OF IMPORTANCE OF ITALY AS KEY ALLY. IN VIEW OF RECENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING MORO ASSASSINATION, SUCH REASSURANCES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME AT THIS TOME. SENATOR'S SUBSTATIVE MEETINGS WITH GOI

LEADERS-FIRST IN MANY MONTHS BY CONGRESSIONAL LEADER--
WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT US LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SHARES
RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF ITALY'S CONTINUED ADHESION
TO ALLIANCE AND TO WESTERN DEMOCRATIC VALUES AS WELL AS
IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE U-ITALIAN RELATIONS. AND, SHOULD
SENATOR VISIT BONN, LONDON AND BURSELS, OMISSION OF
ROME (AND POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF OTHER SOUTHERN EUROPEAN
CAPITAL) COULD WELL PROVOKE NEGATIVE REACTION IN ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT AND PRESS.

3. AS TO SCHEDULE, WE WOULD ENVISION MEETINGS WITH GOV-
ERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IF THEY ARE
AVAILABLE. PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS ALSO A POSSIBILITY.
AS AMBASSADOR GARDNER IS CURRENTLY IN US, DEPARTMENT MAY
WISH TO CONSULT HIM ABOUT ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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TAGS: OREP, (BYRD, HARRY FLOOD JR)
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